

WSDOT I-5 Construction in Seattle & Shoreline

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One Night Lane and Ramp Closures on I-5 in Downtown Seattle

Bad news for highway engineers and construction crews is good news for fans heading to Seattle Mariners and Sonics games this weekend.

Once again, Seattle's infamous liquid sunshine will postpone our I-5 James to Olive pavement rehabilitation project in downtown Seattle. This will be the fourth major construction postponement due to weather. The first of four weekends of construction was April 22 - 25. The cancellation also means the I-5 express lanes will operate on a normal schedule this weekend: southbound from 7 a.m. to noon and northbound from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.

While the rain will keep us from paving this weekend, we will work Sunday night to prepare for future construction weekends. During this closure crews will grind the edge of the existing pavement so it will match up to the new pavement when it's poured. We can do this work Sunday night because it doesn't require dry weather.

Lane and ramp closures on Sunday, May 15

10 p.m.: we will close the Howell Street on-ramp, Union Street off-ramp, Columbia/James Street off-ramp, and Spring Street on-ramp

10 p.m.: we will close the right lane of southbound I-5 from the Mercer Street off-ramp to Spring Street

11 p.m.: we will close a second right lane from the Mercer Street off-ramp to Spring Street

Midnight: we will extend the lane closures from Spring Street south past the entrance to the southbound collector-distributor lanes. **THIS WILL CLOSE THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTHBOUND COLLECTOR DISTRIBUTOR LANES.**

Midnight: we will also close the right lane on southbound I-5 from Denny Way to Cherry Street.

All lanes and ramps will reopen by 5 a.m. Monday morning.

[Signed detours](#) will be in place for the Howell Street, Columbia/James Street, and Spring Street ramp closures. Detour signing will be in place for access to I-90.

Revised I-5 Downtown Seattle Construction Schedule

Postponing paving this weekend means construction is now scheduled for the weekends of May 20 - 23, June 17 - 20 and June 24 - 27. If rain further delays the project, weekends will have to be added to the construction schedule.

While we're eager to get this important construction project finished, we must carefully review weather forecasts because wet weather poses a threat to Monday morning commuters.

"Construction crews need 55 uninterrupted hours to complete their work," said Julia Mizuhata, WSDOT Project Engineer. "Rainy weather, particularly during certain times, makes it impossible to get the work done properly and get the freeway open in time for the Monday morning commute. For example, when crews remove the old asphalt the ground beneath it is exposed to the elements. If rain saturates the ground it becomes much more time consuming to install the concrete. We're keeping a close eye on weather forecasts and hope to get construction underway again next weekend."

In addition, a construction project the scale of James to Olive involves almost 150 workers, mostly private-sector contractors, and various local companies (e.g., concrete plants, trucking companies). Much of their work to support the weekend construction must begin far before you see workers and equipment on the freeway. We wait as long as we can in hopes that bleak weather forecasts will improve.

For more information on this WSDOT project, please visit our [project Web page](#).

Roanoke Noise Walls

[Project Web page](#)

The noise wall on Harvard Avenue is nearly done. Photos of a crane placing Harvard Avenue wall panels in place and more are available on our [Web page](#). Our contractor says we're about two weeks away from completing this wall. The second part of this project is scheduled for later this summer. We will build a 1000-foot wall on Boylston Avenue, a north extension of the wall on Harvard (roughly 180 feet long) and some landscaping. We will keep you posted on our timeline as construction dates are set.

Shoreline 175th to 205th Additional Lane

[Project Web page](#)

For this project we're adding a new outside lane to I-5. So why are construction crews working in the middle of the freeway?

In order to widen the freeway we need to close a lane to provide access for trucks and construction equipment. However closing a lane at this location would create huge traffic back-ups. Instead of closing a lane we will shift the lanes of traffic toward the center, or median, of the freeway. Crews are reconstructing and widening the inside freeway shoulders so that we can safely shift traffic onto them. When this work is done, we will be able to complete the freeway widening project without making traffic worse than it was before construction started.

You'll see crews working in the freeway median for the next several weeks to place electrical systems, repair and upgrade drainage and place barriers.

Other Projects on I-5

Skagit County: Mount Vernon 2nd Street bridge replacement

[Project Web page](#)

This week, May 10-17, crews will close all lanes of I-5 overnight while they place bridge girders over the freeway:

Tuesday, May 10 - Northbound I-5 will be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Wednesday, May 11 - Northbound I-5 will be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Monday, May 16 - Southbound I-5 will be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Tuesday, May 17 - Southbound I-5 will be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

We will provide a signed detour route through city streets for drivers during the closures. Crews will divert drivers off I-5 at Kincaid Street and College Way to bypass construction. Drivers should plan ahead, allow extra time for travel and expect delays.

For detour directions, visit the [detour map](#) on the project Web page.

About this E-mail

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